

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 21-29 with the following amended paragraph:

U.S. Patent No. 5,222,152 to Fishbine et. al. solved this problem by providing a portable and lightweight fingerprint scanning system which can optically generate fingerprint images. This system is ideal for traffic officers and other law enforcement professionals who want to perform immediate identity and background checks on individuals while in the field. The system described in Fishbine et al., Patent No. 5,222,152, is uses the optical principle of total internal reflection. When a finger is positioned on a finger-receiving surface, an optical image of the ridge and valley pattern on the surface of the finger (i.e., the fingerprint) is propagated from the finger-receiving surface.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 31 to page 15, line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 6 is a communication flow diagram illustrating the communication of information between the portable device and various systems to which the portable device connects according to the present invention. Another alternative configuration would eliminate all links to the mobile unit by providing a wireless link 22 from the apparatus 35 directly to the central site 36 via a communication switch 37 as shown in Fig. 6. The wireless format could be cellular (Cellular Digital Packet Data (CDPD), Mobitex, PCS, or other cellular service) or an RF network currently available in an area where the apparatus will be used. The types of coverage would be obtained by contacting local wireless service providers. The direct wireless link 22 is implemented via a PCM/CIA card such as the Novatel Merlin wireless modem.